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INL awards two \$10,000 classroom makeover grants

Another \$29,000 in mini grants will go to 22 Idaho schools

IDAHO FALLS — Idaho Falls High School and Mackay Elementary each get a classroom makeover thanks to Idaho National Laboratory. The two schools were selected to receive \$10,000 Extreme Classroom Makeover grants from INL.

Idaho Falls High School will receive \$9,300 to rebuild a chemistry lab that was demolished for asbestos abatement. Mackay Elementary School will receive \$10,000 to establish a hands-on, problem-solving science and math program.

In addition, INL has awarded more than \$29,000 in grants to teachers across the state to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in grades K-12.

The INL Mini Grant program provides teachers up to \$2,000 per proposal for classroom equipment, materials and professional development projects. Twenty-two grants have been awarded this year to support innovative STEM projects throughout Idaho.

The following is a list of 2011 Mini Grant recipients:

- TJ Adams and Tim Dotterer, Vera O'Leary Middle School in Twin Falls, will receive \$1,074 to purchase stream table kits to teach students about weathering and erosion.
- Connie Cox, Taylorview Junior High School in Idaho Falls, will receive \$985 to purchase supplies so students can raise trout, study them and release them into the wild.
- Darbie Duclos, Prairie High School in Cottonwood, will receive \$986 to update chemistry lab equipment so students can also earn college credit.
- Donald Eberlin, Mountain View High School in Boise, will receive \$1,989 to purchase EKG sensors, heart rate monitors and other equipment for an anatomy class.
- Linda Engle, Pocatello High School, will receive \$1,760 to purchase kits and lab equipment for a new energy technology course.
- Jaysa Fillmore, Grangeville High School, will receive \$1,829 to purchase pressure, temperature and sensor probes for agriscience classes.
- Sam Franklin, Valley School in Hazelton, will receive \$1,080 to purchase calculators, motion detectors and temperature sensors for math classes.
- Megan Gaz, Victor Elementary School, will receive \$1,000 to purchase microscopes, digital recording devices and other equipment to collect field samples and other data.
- Shannon Griffin, South Fork Elementary in Rigby, will receive \$745 to purchase a planetarium, microscopes and other equipment for a Math Science Night held in conjunction with the school's science fair.
- Yuliya Hall, Hayden Kinder Center, will receive \$959 to purchase hands-on kits to teach kindergarten students about living organisms and scientific and mathematical concepts of comparing, matching and measuring.
- Dawn Holmes, Council Junior and Senior High School, will receive \$823 to purchase shovels and other equipment so students can study snow, take measurements and learn about avalanche conditions.
- Delores Johnston, Coeur d'Alene Tribal School, will receive \$1,111 to purchase introductory robotics kits, laptops and supplies.
- Thomas Kennedy, Bridgewater Elementary School in Idaho Falls, will receive \$759 to purchase equipment to teach students about levers and pulleys and mixtures and solutions.
- Deidra Little, Marsing Middle School, will receive \$1,989 to purchase various magnets, a hand-cranked generator and other equipment for a unit on electricity and electronic components.
- Donna McCurdy, Arco Elementary School, will receive \$1,869 to purchase a Lego kit so students can design, build and test simple machines and structures.
- Peggy McDonnell, Moscow Junior High School, will receive \$1,937 to purchase compound microscopes so students can analyze slides.
- Michelle McGarry, Holy Rosary Catholic School in Idaho Falls, will receive \$1,000 to purchase equipment and specimens for a biology unit.
- Tawny Olsen, Victory Charter School in Nampa, will receive \$994 to purchase centigram digital balances for chemistry and biology classes.
- Kathryn Palmer, Robert Stuart Middle School in Twin Falls, will receive \$1,050 to purchase stream table kits to teach students about weathering and erosion.
- Krista Ramacher, Arco Elementary, will receive \$1,900 to purchase a Lego kit to teach students about robotics.
- Mike Scott, Rolling Hills Public Charter in Boise, will receive \$1,000 to purchase stream table equipment, plants and electrical connections for a school-wide environmental education project.
- Vincent Wray, Shelley High School, will receive \$1,826 to purchase other supplies for students to build transmissions and use gears to modify electric go-carts.

Grant applications are evaluated by a panel of judges based on specific criteria. Teachers are required to provide information on how learning objectives and curriculum concepts will be enhanced and how the project will bolster student interest and achievement.

Funding for INL's Mini Grant program comes from Battelle Energy Alliance, a nonprofit organization that operates the lab for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Since 2005, INL has contributed more than \$2.2 million to enhance STEM education in Idaho.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. It also is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development.

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